

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
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USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USNMR SHAPE BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 11353

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO
SUBJECT: NATO DEFENSE INITIATIVES: FRENCH INVOLVEMENT

REF: (A) USNATO 10453 DTG 261909Z OCT 77, (B) USNATO 8903
DTG 161654Z SEP 77.

1. AT THE NOVEMBER 14 EWG MEETING, MUMFORD (WHO CHAIRED THE AFTERNOON SESSION IN PANSAS ABSENCE) RAISED THE SUBJECT OF FRENCH ASSOCIATION WITH THE LONG TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM, REPORTING THAT FRENCH AMBASSADOR TINE HAD NOMINATED OFFICERS FOR LIAISON WITH THE FIVE TASK FORCES IN WHOSE WORK THE FRENCH ARE INTERESTED: AIR DEFENSE, C3, ELECTRONIC WARFARE, RATIONALIZATION AND MARITIME POSTURE (REF A). MUMFORD SAID THAT PANSAS HAD PASSED THESE NAMES TO THE TASK FORCE DIRECTORS CONCERNED, WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO PASS TO THE FRENCH LIAISON OFFICERS, AT DIRECTORS' DISCRETION, SUCH INFORMATION AS WAS NECESSARY TO KEEP THE FRENCH INFORMED.

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2. MUMFORD ALSO REPORTED THAT TINE HAD ASKED TO SEE CERTAIN EWG PAPERS, INCLUDING DRAFT REPORTS ON WHICH THE FRENCH WANTED THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT. PANSAS HAD EXPLAINED THAT IF IT WERE DECIDED THAT THE FRENCH COULD RECEIVE AND COMMENT ON EWG DRAFT REPORTS, THE EWG WOULD BE UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO TAKE FRENCH COMMENT INTO ACCOUNT. MUMFORD ADDED THAT THERE WERE TWO POSSIBILITIES FOR PASSING PAPERS TO THE

FRENCH: (A) PASS ALL PAPERS, OR (B) PASS ONLY THOSE PAPERS, OR THOSE PORTIONS OF PAPERS, ADDRESSING THE FIVE TASK FORCE AREAS OF FRENCH INTEREST. SINCE MOST EWG PAPERS WERE OF GENERAL APPLICATION AND ARE NOT SEGREGATED BY TASK FORCE, THE SECOND POSSIBILITY DID NOT SEEM VERY PRACTICAL.

3. MUMFORD ASKED REACTIONS TO THE FRENCH REQUEST FROM NATIONAL DELEGATIONS WITHIN THE NEXT 2-3 DAYS. COMMENT: SINCE THE US HAS BEEN A STRONG SUPPORTER OF FRENCH ASSOCIATION WITH THE LONG TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM, WE CONSIDER THAT THE US SHOULD INTERPOSE NO OBJECTIONS TO TINE'S REQUEST AND SHOULD NOT INSIST ON LIMITING DISTRIBUTION TO THE FIVE TASK FORCE AREAS OF FRENCH INTEREST. THE MORE THE FRENCH INVOLVE THEMSELVES THE BETTER FOR THE FUTURE OF ALLIANCE DEFENSE, AND, MORE PAROCHIALY, THE MORE DIFFICULT IT BECOMES FOR THEM TO ARGUE THAT FRANCE SHOULD ABSENT ITSELF FROM ANY SUMMIT DISCUSSION OF THE LTDP (USNATO 11107). END COMMENT.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: BY OOB 18 NOVEMBER, GUIDANCE ON: (A) ALLOWING THE FRENCH TO RECEIVE EWG REPORTS, (B) ALLOWING THE FRENCH TO COMMENT ON THESE REPORTS IN DRAFT, (C) RESTRICTING CIRCULATION TO THE FRENCH TO REPORTS, OR PORTIONS OF REPORTS, ADDRESSING THE FIVE TASK FORCES WITH WHICH THE FRENCH HAVE LIAISON. BENNETT

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